

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 18, 19, 21-23 and 27-34 and add new claims 35 and 36 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for decorating a vitreous article comprising the steps of:
 - a) applying to the vitreous article in a predetermined design a radiation curable ink composition comprising free acid groups which is (i) operable when cured to bond to the vitreous article, and (ii) strippable from the vitreous article upon exposure to alkali, followed by,
 - b) curing the ink composition on the vitreous article by exposing it to the radiation by which it is curable, and thereafter,
 - c) ~~subjecting heating~~ the decorated vitreous article ~~to an elevated~~ at a temperature until the ink composition is cured and fused on the vitreous article.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the alkali is an aqueous alkaline solution.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein the aqueous alkaline solution comprises 2 to 10% by weight of alkali.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the alkaline solution is an aqueous solution of sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the alkaline solution contains 4% by weight of sodium hydroxide.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ink composition is strippable from the vitreous article upon exposure to an aqueous alkaline solution for a period of 1 to 60 minutes, wherein said aqueous alkaline solution has a temperature of 60 to 100°C, and contains 2 to 20% by weight of the total alkali composition of alkali.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ink composition comprises a monomer or oligomer having at least one free acidic group.

8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the acidic group is a carboxylic acid group, a phosphoric acid group, or a sulfonic acid group.
9. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein the monomer or oligomer is an ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer.
10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer is an acrylate or methacrylate.
11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the acidic group is a carboxylic acid group.
12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the monomer or oligomer contains repeating alkylene oxide units.
13. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the monomer or oligomer is an aromatic acid anhydride.
14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ink composition comprises, by weight of the total composition: about 5-95% of a ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer having at least one free acid group, and, about 5-95% pigment.
15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the ink composition further comprises about 0.5-25% by weight of the total composition of a silane adhesion promoter.
16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the ink composition further comprises about 0.01-10% by weight of the total composition of a polyether defoaming agent.
17. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the ink composition further comprises a fluorinated surfactant.
18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ink composition is curable by exposure to actinic radiation.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ink composition is curable by exposure to ultraviolet radiation.
20. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vitreous article is glass.
21. (currently amended) A method for stripping decorative indicia from a glass substrate decorated with a radiation ~~eured~~ curable ink composition, the ink composition containing free acid groups and being: (i) operable after radiation curing and ~~exposure of~~ heating the glass substrate decorated vitreous article to an elevated at a first temperature to cure and fuse the ink composition on the glass substrate; and (ii) strippable from the glass upon exposure to alkali, the method comprising contacting the glass substrate having the decorative indicia thereon, with an aqueous alkaline solution containing about 2-20% by weight alkali for a period of 1 to 60 minutes.
22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the glass substrate having the decorative indicia thereon is contacted with the aqueous alkaline solution at a second temperature of about 60 to 100°C.
23. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the radiation ~~eured~~ curable ink composition is a polymeric composition formed by the polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers or oligomers having at least one free acid group.
24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomers or oligomers are acrylates or methacrylates.
25. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the acid group is a carboxylic acid group, a sulfonic acid group, or a phosphoric acid group.
26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the acid group is a carboxylic acid group.
27. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step (c), the length of exposure at the elevated temperature is decorated vitreous article is heated for ~~between~~ about 0.5 minutes to about 30 minutes.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein in step (i), the length of exposure at the elevated temperature is glass substrate is heated at the first temperature for ~~between~~ about 0.5 minutes to about 30 minutes.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step (c), the ~~elevated~~ temperature is greater than 90°C and is sufficient to cure and fuse the ink composition to the vitreous article.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein in step (c), the ~~elevated~~ temperature is from 90°C to 200°C.

31. (currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 29 or 30, wherein in step (c), the vitreous article is heated ~~subjected to the elevated temperature~~ for a period of 0.5 to 30 minutes.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein in step (i), the ~~elevated~~ temperature is greater than 90°C and is sufficient to cure and fuse the ink composition to the glass substrate.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein in step (i), the ~~elevated~~ temperature is from 90°C to 200°C.

34. (currently amended) The method of any one of claims 21, 32 or 33, wherein in step (i), the ~~vitreous article~~ glass substrate is heated ~~subjected to the elevated temperature~~ for a period of 0.5 to 30 minutes.

35. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein in step (c), the temperature is from 100°C to 200°C.

36. (new) The method of claim 21 wherein in step (i), the temperature is from 100°C to 200°C.